

## POSITION AND CANDIDATE SPECIFICATION

### THE SKOLL GLOBAL THREATS FUND

### CHIEF SCIENTIST

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## POSITION SPECIFICATION

### Client Company

Jeff Skoll's childhood dream of making a significant difference in the world is coming to fruition through the launch of the Skoll Global Threats Fund.

As founder and chairman, Skoll launched this organization in April 2009 to tackle the world's most pressing issues. With Dr. Larry Brilliant as President, the Skoll Global Threats Fund has a mandate to drive large-scale global change on the most critical issues facing mankind. The new organization will skillfully identify and support innovative high-impact initiatives to combat climate change, water scarcity, pandemics, nuclear proliferation and Middle East conflict.

In the next several months, the Skoll Global Threats Fund will develop its strategy and investment approach, leveraging the Skoll Foundation's programmatic expertise and operating infrastructure.

The Skoll Global Threats Fund has headquarters in Northern California.

### About Jeff Skoll

Jeff Skoll is a philanthropist and social entrepreneur. As founder and chairman of the Skoll Foundation, Participant Media and the Skoll Global Threats Fund, he is bringing life to his vision of a sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world.

In April 2009, Jeff founded the Skoll Global Threats Fund, naming Dr. Larry Brilliant as president. The organization is focused on developing solutions to the most pressing challenges facing our world today, including climate change, water scarcity, pandemics, nuclear proliferation and Middle East conflict.

Jeff founded Participant Media in 2004 to create entertainment that inspires and compels social change. Participant's films include An Inconvenient Truth, Food, Inc., Darfur Now, The Kite Runner, The Visitor, The Soloist and The Informant!

In 1999, Jeff launched the Skoll Foundation. It quickly became the world's largest foundation for social entrepreneurship, driving large-scale change by investing in, connecting, and celebrating social entrepreneurs and other innovators dedicated to solving the world's most pressing problems.

Born in Montreal, Jeff later moved with his family to Toronto. He received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto. Jeff later earned his MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business; then harnessed his skills as the first

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President of eBay.

Jeff's recent honors include Time Magazine's 100 People of the Year (2006), Wired Magazine's Rave Award (2006), Business Week's list of most innovative philanthropists (2002 through present), and earlier this year, the Producers Guild of America's Visionary Award and Global Green USA's Entertainment Industry Environmental Leadership Award.

## **About Dr. Larry Brilliant**

Larry Brilliant served a three-year stint as the first executive director of Google.org, the company's philanthropic arm, before becoming Google.com Vice President and chief philanthropy evangelist.

Larry is an M.D. and M.P.H., board-certified in preventive medicine, epidemiology and public health. He was one of a four-person international team that led the successful World Health Organization smallpox eradication program in India and South Asia. He later founded the Seva Foundation, which works around the world to eliminate preventable and curable blindness. Seva's projects have given back sight to nearly 3 million people.

Larry co-founded The Well, a pioneering virtual community, with Stewart Brand in 1985. He also holds a telecom systems patent and has served as CEO of public and venture-backed technology companies.

Earlier in his career, he was a professor of international health and epidemiology at the University of Michigan. He has authored two books, including *The Management of Smallpox Eradication in India*, and dozens of scientific articles on infectious diseases, blindness and international health policy.

His recent awards include Time Magazine 100 People of the Year (2008), UN Global Leadership (2008), TED Prize (2006), Peacemaker Award (2005) and International Public Health Hero (2004). Larry worked in India for WHO for more than 10 years on smallpox, blindness and polio. His polio work led him to create the idea for a documentary, *The Final Inch*, which was nominated for an Oscar in 2009. He volunteered as a "first responder" for CDC's bio-terrorism effort after the anthrax attacks and as a medical doctor in Sri Lanka and Indonesia after the tsunami.

He currently chairs the National Bio-Surveillance Advisory Subcommittee, created by Presidential directive. Larry was elected to membership in the Council on Foreign Relations in 2009. He sits on the boards of the Skoll Foundation and several other nonprofits.

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## Position Summary

The Skoll Global Threats Fund is seeking a Chief Scientist or Chief Technical Officer (CTO) who will focus on developing solutions to address the core global challenges facing humankind, such as water shortages, pandemics and climate change. The Chief Scientist will be responsible for identifying, creating and maintaining a network of expertise around the globe and will create a novel international virtual academic think tank that will bring the best scientific and technological thinking to bear on these issues. The Chief Scientist will also recommend areas for potential investment in research that promises significant advancement towards solving humanity's urgent threats.

Please submit all inquiries, nominations, and applications to [SUTFCSO@spencerstuart.com](mailto:SUTFCSO@spencerstuart.com)

## Key Relationships

Reports to: Dr. Larry Brilliant

Direct reports: Team to be built

Other key relationships: Skoll Foundation Chairman and Founder, Jeff Skoll  
Skoll Foundation CEO, Sally Osberg  
Academic, scientific, and private sector and partners  
NGO's and other multilateral organizations

## Major Responsibilities

- Create, implement and communicate a strong research and academic excellence vision
- In collaboration with the President, establish the scientific and technical component underpinning the overall organizational strategy
- Develop relevant technical and scientific roadmaps designed to achieve the Fund's strategic goals
- Provide the leadership required to attract funding, talent and institutional partners
- Build and manage a significant scientific and technological research enterprise including the recruitment of staff and the prioritization of programs
- Include the use of cutting-edge technology as a powerful, virtual convening tool to further the progress of the institution's goals
- Look for opportunities to collaborate and cooperate with affiliated institutions, leverage resources and create a distinctive profile for the Skoll Global Threats Fund within the international scientific community

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## CANDIDATE SPECIFICATION: KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

### Ideal Experience

- A track record of significant achievement in a scientific or technical discipline
- Experience convening and facilitating high-level scientific dialogue
- Familiarity with institutional fundraising and the ability to command the attention of the scientific and engineering communities
- Familiarity with academic practices and motivational structure
- Deep familiarity with the issues associated with today's urgent threats to human life
- Understanding of the potential uses of newest technologies to address catastrophic dangers
- A record of visionary leadership, strategic thinking and effective planning
- Ability to communicate research findings in ways that are accessible and compelling to lay audiences
- History of driving the design and application of new technology to the pursuit of scientific goals
- Ph.D. in a scientific discipline, ideally with a background both in a 'hard' science as well as an engineering background

### Critical Competencies for Success

*Scientific and Technological Vision:* In an entrepreneurial environment with significant aspiration to create a tangible impact on the urgent threats facing humankind, the ideal candidate will have the ability to influence and define the application of science and technology to the development of solutions and public policy. She/he will have demonstrated the ability to develop and articulate a compelling strategy and vision for a scientifically grounded organization that enables the institution to gain credibility among highly respected entities that are focused on solving urgent global problems.

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*Leadership Skills:* Demonstrated ability to provide direction and set the research agenda for a nascent organization with the goal of establishing the Skoll Global Threats Fund as a magnet for excellence by:

- Setting priorities and allocating resources to maximize the Institute's impact;
- Providing leadership to the global discussion around urgent threats facing humanity as well as "solutions" that cut across all the threats; and
- Driving the application and impact of real-time data collection through emerging and newly applied technology.

*Entrepreneurship:* Demonstrated ability to build an organization or program from its inception by:

- Serving as a catalyst and enabler for innovative research and education and building the operating platform to support it;
- Developing and leading a research network comprised of renowned research, education and policy experts;
- Working across multiple disciplines to develop new technologies to support and advance the program's research; and
- Attracting financial resources in the form of grants, sponsorships, joint ventures and gifts.

## **Other Characteristics**

- Strong academic credentials and professional reputation
- Excellent public communication skills and the ability to convene scientists, faculty, research administrators, technologists and engineers
- Extensive professional networks
- Comfort in an unstructured, entrepreneurial environment
- A sense of perspective and humor – dealing with global threats can create despair if not balanced by a sense of perspective and humor